

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 14053 260023Z
ACTION SNM-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 /016 W
-----115578 260921Z /12
R 260014Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2282
DEAHQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 14053

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, MX
SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - DEA PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACT
EVALUATION TEAM

REF: MEXICO 12302

1. AS REPORTED IN PARA FIVE REFTEL, ON JULY 17 AMBAS-
SADOR WROTE TO ATTORNEY GENERAL FLORES SUGGESTING THAT
DEA INTELLIGENCE ANALYST BE ADDED TO THE CONTRACT
EVALUATION TEAM PROVIDED BY AVIATION ASSOCIATES
INTERNATIONAL (AAI). ALTHOUGH FLORES NEVER REPLIED
TO LETTER, A DEA AGENT/ANALYST JOINED THE TEAM BASED
ON CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN EMBASSY'S NARCOTICS ATTACHE
AND AG'S EXECUTIVE OFFICER BAEZA DURING DEA-SPONSORED
CONFERENCE IN LIMA.

2. DURING A MEETING WITH BAEZA ON THE NARCOTICS PRO-
GRAM AUGUST 24, BAEZA WAS INFORMED THAT THE AGENT/
ANALYST WOULD BE DEPARTING MEXICO FOR SEVERAL DAYS
FOR COURT DUTY. BAEZA THEN STATED THAT HE HAD BEEN
UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT THE ANALYST WOULD BE UNDER
CONTRACT TO THE GOM AND ASKED THAT THE ANALYST NOT
RPT NOT RETURN. ACTING NARCOTICS ATTACHE AGREED THAT
AGENT/ANALYST WOULD NOT RETURN.

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3. BAEZA THEN CONTINUED THAT HE HAD BELIEVED THAT THE
AAI TEAM ITSELF WOULD BE UNDER A CONTRACT TO THE GOM,
NOT TO THE USG, SINCE THE MEXICAN MILITARY IS SENSITIVE
TO THE PRESENCE OF ANY FOREIGN OPERATIONAL PERSONNEL.
EMBASSY OFFICERS REPLIED THAT TO THEIR KNOWLEDGE THERE
HAD NEVER BEEN A QUESTION ABOUT WHO WOULD CONTRACT AAI

SINCE, WHEN MATTER WAS FIRST PRESENTED TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL IN EARLY APRIL, IT WAS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD BY ALL THAT WE WERE SEEKING A SUBSTITUTE FOR THE DEA FIELD PRESENCE. IN A SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH FLORES, HE AGREED THAT IT WOULD MAKE MORE SENSE TO CONTINUE THE CURRENT AAI EVALUATION UNDER A USG CONTRACT, BUT ASKED THAT FUTURE AAI EVALUATIONS BE PERFORMED UNDER CONTRACT TO THE GOM. EMBASSY OFFICERS UNDERTOOK TO CONSULT WASHINGTON AND PROVIDE REPLY ASAP.

4. COMMENT: WE DOUBT THAT THERE WAS CONFUSION OVER INCLUSION OF DEA ANALYST IN TEAM OR OVER FACT THAT AAI WAS CONTRACTED BY USG INSTEAD OF GOM. WE SUSPECT THAT GOM MILITARY HAS AGAIN COMPLAINED ABOUT USG PERSONNEL, EVEN CONTRACTORS, IN AN OPERATIONAL ROLE AND THAT BAEZA IS LOOKING FOR A WAY TO CONTINUE "JOINT EVALUATIONS" WITHOUT UPSETTING MILITARY.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT VIEWS ON FUTURE EVALUATIONS BEING CONDUCTED BY AAI UNDER CONTRACT TO GOM. MCANINCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, CONTRACTS, INTELLIGENCE PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO14053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780349-1048
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780819/aaaaaqbd.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 452bf25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 MEXICO 12302
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1608155
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - DEA PARTICIPATION IN CONTRACT EVALUATION TEAM
TAGS: SNAR, MX, DEA
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/452bf25a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014